Headquarters Marine Corps
Manpower and Reserve Affairs

Pregnancy In the Marine Corps

Major C.S. Dowling

Pregnancy Policy

- Marine Corps Order establishes procedures for assignment, retention, separation, prescribed standards of conduct, and medical management

- Pregnancy is not restrictive; however, may temporarily limit the ability to perform routine tasks

Well-being of Mother and Child

- Pre-deployment pregnancy tests.
  - Major policy shift will need prior SecNav approval
- Prenatal support (medical,counseling and other resources available)
- Shipboard/Aviation Assignment
  - Potential injury to fetus due to workplace environment

Support Programs

- **L.I.N.K.S-**(Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills) this program works through a partnership of volunteers, spouses, Marine Corps Family Team Building staff , career retention specialist and chaplains
- **New Parent Support Programs-**offers a wide range of support services to military families with children e.g. Baby Boot Camp, Parenting Classes, Home Visits
- **Single Marine Program-**character development program
- **Marine Corps Family Team Building-** provide services and resources to enhance the readiness of Marine Corps families

Way Ahead

- **Increase frequency and quality of family planning / Risk management training**
  - Equal emphasis on both genders
  - Reviewing data to determine schools and bases that may need more focus
  - Making training an annual requirement (sexual harassment, computer security, etc)

- **Leadership Training**
  - Part of every new Commanders Course and SNCO Academy curriculum

- **Revision of Marine Corps Order**
  - Extend time to assignment to a deploying unit from six months to 12 months
  - Pre-deployment testing